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of the Physical Sciences and Its Idealistic Significance."

His scientific activity was profound and many-sided. His splendid knowledge of physics, in the progress of which he was interested all his life, and his tremendous general erudition, enabled him to work in many departments of physical science. The names of some of his works are very suggestive of this manifoldness of interest: "A Theory of Action at a Distance and Its Application to the Laws of Electrostatics and Electrodynamics," "The Laws of the Solution of Certain Salts," "The Geometrical Significance of Frenkel's Integrals," "An Attempt of Discovering the Laws of Heat Energy in Chemical Reactions," "Über eine Methode objektiver Darstellung der Eigenschaften des polarisierten Lichtes," "The Formation of Drops in a Magnetic and an Electric Field."

In physics he was equally at home in experimental methods and in the mathematical analysis. After leaving the University of Moscow, however, he gave himself up almost exclusively to theoretical work, especially in the domain of the principle of relativity. Some of his results in this direction were described in a speech on "The Characteristic Features and Problems of the Modern Scientific Thought," delivered before the general meeting of the second Mendelejev Congress.³

Oumov was the president of several scientific societies in which he was invariably the guiding spirit. For a short time he edited a splendid scientific magazine, *The Word of Science*, which, however, did not exist long.

LEO PASVOLSKY

NEW YORK CITY

CLASSIFICATION OF TECHNICAL LITERATURE

DELEGATES from about twenty national technical and scientific societies met in the United Engineering Society Building, 29 West 39th street, New York City, on May 21, 1915, to perfect a permanent organization, the purpose being to prepare a classification of the litera-

³ Unfortunately the speech is not available in this country.

ture of applied science which might be generally accepted and adopted by these and other organizations.

There was a generally expressed opinion that such a classification, if properly prepared, might well serve as a basis for the filing of clippings, for cards in a card index, and for printed indexes; and that the publishers of technical periodicals might be induced to print against each important article the symbol of the appropriate class in this system, so that by clipping these articles a file might be easily made which would combine in one system these clippings, together with trade catalogues, maps, drawings, blue prints, photographs, pamphlets and letters classified by the same system.

By request, Mr. W. P. Cutter, the librarian of the Engineering Societies' Library, and a delegate from the American Institute of Mining Engineers, read a paper on "The Classification of Applied Science" in which, after describing the existing classifications, of one of which he is the author, he stated that, in his opinion, no one of these, although having excellent features, was complete and satisfactory enough to be worthy of general adoption. He outlined a plan whereby a central office could collate all the existing classifications, and, with the help of specialists in the various national societies interested, might compile a general system, which, although perhaps not absolutely perfect, might meet with general acceptance and adoption.

Permanent organization was effected by the election of the following officers: Chairman, Fred R. Low; secretary, W. P. Cutter; executive committee; the above, with Edgar Marburg, H. W. Peck, Samuel Sheldon.

It was agreed that a special invitation to participate by the appointment of a delegate be sent to other national societies which might be interested in the general plan.

The following societies were represented by delegates: Samuel Sheldon, library board, United Engineering Society; Richard Moldenke, American Foundrymen's Association; C. Clifford Kuh, Society for Electrical Development; Cullen W. Parmelee, American

Ceramic Society; Sullivan W. Jones, J. A. F. Cardiff, American Institute of Architects; Geo. F. Weston, American Society of Agricultural Engineers; F. L. Pryor, American Society of Refrigerating Engineers; H. W. Peck, American Gas Institute; Nicholas Hill, American Water Works Association; Edwin J. Prindle, L. P. Alford, L. P. Breckenridge, American Society of Mechanical Engineers; F. J. T. Stewart, National Fire Protection Association; J. J. Blackmore, American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers; C. F. Clarkson, Society of Automobile Engineers; F. L. Bishop, Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education; George R. Olshausen, U. S. Bureau of Standards; E. C. Crittenden, American Physical Society; Alfred Rigling, Franklin Institute; W. P. Cutter, American Institute of Mining Engineers; Edgar Marburg, American Society for Testing Materials; A. S. MacAllister, National Electric Light Association. American Electro-Chemical Society and Illuminating Engineering Society; C. E. Lindsay, American Railway Engineering Association; G. W. Lee, librarian.

The executive committee was charged with the task of enlarging the membership of the committee to include delegates from all similar national organizations, and the preparation of a plan for further action.

The delegates present expressed most hearty and enthusiastic personal interest in any system which might be worthy of general adoption; they could, of course, not promise, at this early date, anything more than moral support to the idea, reserving for themselves and for their societies the right to thoroughly examine any system that might be evolved before recommending its adoption.

The name adopted for this organization is "Joint Committee on Classification of Technical Literature," and the temporary address of the Secretary, Mr. W. P. Cutter, is 29 West 39th Street, New York City.

THE NINETEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICANISTS

IN consequence of the war in Europe, the Washington meeting of the Congress, which

was originally scheduled for October 5, 1915, was, with the general approval of the membership, indefinitely postponed. Since then it has become evident that the war may last for a long period, and that when it does end the conditions, economic and otherwise, may be such that a successful meeting can not be held for many years. Circumstances, however, have so shaped themselves as to make possible a well-attended session of the congress during the coming winter, notwithstanding the enforced absence of most of the European delegates. During Convocation Week of this year, a number of important scientific bodies, whose interests wholly or in part are closely related to those of the Americanists and whose membership is in a large measure the same, will meet in Washington. As this seemed to present an excellent opportunity for a meeting of the Americanists, the organizing committee took preliminary steps which assure intimate cooperation between the Congress and other learned bodies and submitted the proposal to hold the postponed session in cooperation or jointly with these organizations, to the vote of the members. The result of this vote was overwhelmingly in favor of the proposal. In consequence, the organizing committee feels authorized to announce that the session will be held in Washington, December 27-31, of this year; and that it will be held jointly or in cooperation with the Anthropological Section of the Pan-American Scientific Congress, the American Anthropological Association, the American Historical Association, the American Folklore Society, and the Archeological Institute of America. The program previously published will in the main be adhered to, excepting the field excursions; and the members are urged to communicate with the secretary in relation to the papers which they intend to present.

W. A. HOLMES,
Chairman, O. C.
 A. HRDLÍČKA,
Secretary

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. W. W. CAMPBELL, president of the American Association for the Advancement of